

REMARKS

35 USC §103

NURSE (US 5,263,111)

Claims 21-27 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable in view of Nurse and as being unpatentable over Nurse in view of Nashimoto et al (6078717). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 21 of the present invention recites the following:

“21. A method for producing an electronic component, comprising:
providing a substrate layer;
providing a solid, substantially planar polymer-based optical wave-guide,
wherein the wave-guide is photobleached or doped; and
laminating the solid, substantially planar optical wave-guide onto
the substrate layer.” (emphasis added)

It appears from the Examiner’s comments that the Examiner is looking at the method claim as an apparatus claim. Claim 21 is a method claim where a substrate layer is provided and a solid, substantially planar polymer-based optical wave-guide is provided. According to the specification, the waveguide is provided as a solid wave-guide and is not made as the electronic component is being formed. Nurse does not teach that a solid, substantially planar polymer-based optical wave-guide is provided, but instead teaches that a cladding material is laid down on a base coat layer, that a waveguide pattern is formed in or on the cladding material, that a material is laid down that forms the waveguide material and that the material, once laid down and cured/hardened, is planarized. Therefore, a solid wave-guide is not provided, a substantially planar wave-guide is not provided and

the combination of a solid and substantially planar waveguide is not provided. There is a significant difference between the method steps of nurse and the method steps of the present application.

It would not be obvious after a fair reading of Nurse to conceive of the method described in the present application because of the fact that the method described in detail in the Nurse patent requires that the waveguide be formed on and in the cladding material as opposed to being provided as a fully functional waveguide before laminating it onto the substrate, as it is in the present application. There are required steps in the Nurse patent that are not present or contemplated in the present application.

Based on these arguments, claim 21 of the present application is not obvious over Nurse (or over Nurse in view of Nashimoto) because Nurse is lacking and/or missing at least one specific feature or structural recitation found in the present application, and in claim 21. Claim 21 is therefore allowable as not being anticipated by Nurse. Further, Nurse does not anticipate claims 22-27 of the present application by virtue of their dependency on claim 21.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

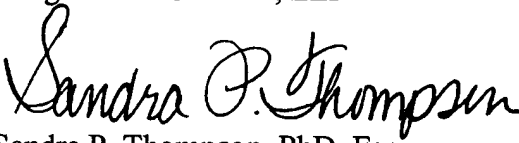
Claims 21-27 are currently pending in this application, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the claims in light of the arguments presented and allow the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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